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**\*\*\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\*\*\***

***Statement on Adams Administration Revising Rules Which Will Increase ICE Arrests at Shelters, Hospitals, and Other City Properties***

***New Directive is a Clear Bypass of New York City's Sanctuary Laws and Will Deter Life-Saving Services***

(NEW YORK, NY) - The Legal Aid Society released the following statement in response to the Adams Administration revising rules that will increase Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) arrests at shelters, hospitals, and other City properties:

“This new directive is a clear end run around New York City’s sanctuary laws and will deter individuals and families from accessing shelter, medical care, and other life-saving services. It also undermines the foundational trust between City workers and the populations they serve, jeopardizing public health and safety.

“If ICE agents fail to produce a warrant signed by a judge, City employees should follow duly enacted laws and deny them entry. The City is not only failing non-citizen New Yorkers, but also forcing frontline staff in shelter, medical care, and other City properties to defer to any ICE enforcement action, whether compliant with City laws or not. In announcing this significant retreat from the current law, the Mayor has given ICE and other federal law enforcement permission to use threats and intimidation against workers and all New Yorkers to achieve mass deportation.

“This policy shift alarmingly aligns with recent federal immigration enforcement actions eliminating protections for sensitive locations such as hospitals, schools, and places of worship. Such measures erode the sanctity of these institutions and sow widespread fear within immigrant communities.

“We call upon Mayor Eric Adams to immediately rescind this harmful policy. It is imperative to reaffirm New York’s commitment as a sanctuary city to safeguard all residents, regardless of immigration status, and to ensure that access to critical services remains unbridled for those in need.”

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*The Legal Aid Society exists for one simple yet powerful reason: to ensure that New Yorkers are not denied their right to equal justice because of poverty. For nearly 150 years, we have protected, defended, and advocated for those who have struggled in silence for far too long. Every day, in every borough, The Legal Aid Society changes the lives of our clients and helps improve our communities. <https://www.legalaidnyc.org>*